

substance called thimerosal. Thousands and thousands and thousands, probably millions of children, but thousands of children have been adversely affected by the thimerosal, which is 50 percent mercury; and these are the faces of children who were normal one day, and after receiving several shots in one day that contained mercury, they very rapidly deteriorated to where they could not talk, they could not look one in the eye, they would flap their arms and run around screaming, and they had chronic constipation and diarrhea alternatively.

These parents of these children and thousands more like them have had a similar experience to my daughter and my grandson. He received nine shots in one day, seven of which contained mercury. He got 40 times the amount of mercury that is tolerable in an adult in 1 day, and within 2 days he was autistic. A very normal child like these were normal children. He was a very happy child, a very talkative child, and he went into silence. When we started getting him out of it finally, he could not talk clearly. He had to have all kinds of speech therapy. He ran around on his toes, flapping his arms, banging his head against the wall like all of these children did. And scientists that we have had before our committee and doctors from throughout the world who are very competent have said that in large part that was caused because by the mercury that was injected into these children from the preservative called thimerosal which was in almost all of the children's vaccinations until just the last 2 or 3 years when we had hearings on this, and, thankfully, most of those vaccines no longer have mercury in them except maybe one which is the flu vaccine for children.

So, Mr. Speaker, if any parents would be watching this, I would like for them to remember to very quickly and very thoroughly look at the insert in the vaccination case when their children are vaccinated and make sure that they do not have an adverse reaction.

The reason I am bringing this up and I am coming down here every night is because there is an attempt by the pharmaceutical companies through Members of Congress to eliminate any possibility of lawsuits against them caused by these vaccinations which had mercury in them.

We have what is called the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, which was supposed to be a nonadversarial procedure to compensate these people for damage to their children caused by vaccines; but it has become very adversarial, and it was only a 3-year period within which people had to file. That 3-year period passed before many of these people knew that they could try to get compensation for their child's damage; and as a result, they were left out in the cold. So they filed a class action lawsuit, and there has been an attempt last fall and again this year they are going to attempt to stop those class action lawsuits which would leave

these parents out in the cold with no recourse. They are mortgaging their homes. They are going bankrupt. They have no place to go. There is a fund set up to help them, but they cannot get into the fund because that statute has run out and they cannot even go to court to file a class action lawsuit if this language that is in the Senate bill right now is passed into law; and that simply is wrong. We created that fund so those people, those children, could be compensated.

I want to read a letter of a former colleague of ours, Dick Chrysler, who was a Member of this Chamber who has a grandson who is 6 years old that is autistic. He received several vaccinations in the 1997-1999 period, many of which contained the mercury, and here is what his mother said: "He then continued to regress from being alert and happy and beginning to talk to total regression and not talking until after age 3 with speech therapy. He also became a very aggressive child who did not know how to play or interact properly with others." That is what happened to my grandson as well.

"These and many other much more severe behaviors such as seizures with severe breakdowns and explosive behaviors which have caused injury to our other children from broken bones to stitches have become a part of our life due to autism. This has made our life incredibly difficult as one can imagine. As we have taken this past year and a half focusing on whatever treatments we can do to help our son's autism improve and therefore our family's life as well, it has cost us more than we could ever have imagined. Treatments, which have helped but are not covered by any insurance, have amounted to thousands of dollars, and this expense has no end in sight."

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Remember, there is a fund out there that they cannot get into. They cannot go to court, and yet the vaccines, they believe, and thousands like them believe, and I believe, and scientists and doctors believe it was caused by the mercury in these vaccines.

Autism does not just affect the poor thousands of children inflicted with this dreadful disease. It affects every person in the world, since ultimately this epidemic is like a chain reaction.

They go on to say 10 to 20 years from now when these are not just little children, who is going to take care of them, especially when we die? This is something that my colleagues and I have to deal with, and we have to deal with it quickly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXPRESSING STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the House Republican budget resolution. I believe our national budget should be a statement of our country's values. It should reflect the priorities of the American people for good jobs and safe communities, quality education and access to health care.

Unfortunately, the Republican budget fails to fund these national priorities. The Republican budget has only one clear priority: To fund the President's \$1.6 trillion tax cut, and the Republicans fund this tax cut at the expense of the social and economic interests of the American people.

The Republican budget provides \$1.6 trillion for the President's tax cut, but only provides \$28 billion for a prescription drug plan. This will only cover 1.5 percent of our country's seniors' prescription drug costs over the next 10 years. Any additional funds spent to provide a prescription drug plan would have to come at the expense of other Medicare benefits. So Republicans are essentially offering our seniors the following choice: Prescription drug coverage or benefits. Pick one or the other, but you cannot have both.

The Republican budget cuts \$9.7 billion from the mandatory education programs. These include student loan programs and child nutrition programs. In 2004 alone, these cuts could push nearly 1/2 million poor children out of child nutrition programs. Republicans are eager to fund the President's \$1.6 trillion tax cut, but cannot seem to find the funds necessary to provide a school breakfast or lunch for our Nation's low-income children. For many of these children, access to school meals may be the only one assured source of good nutrition each day.

Mr. Speaker, there are millions of Americans today whose parents cannot afford prescription drugs, whose children attend classes in bungalows, because their schools are run down and old. There are millions of Americans who are struggling to find work and provide for their families in the midst of our struggling economy. Yet Republicans are offering us a budget this week that cuts funding for every single domestic priority in order to fund a \$1.6 trillion tax cut that will only help a small percentage of Americans. These tax cuts are even more inappropriate when you consider the fact that our country is about to embark on a war that will strain our already weakened financial resources.

Our national budget should be a reflection of our priorities and values. It should be a budget based on making the right choices. Do we make room for

more expensive tax cuts, or provide affordable prescription drugs for our Nation's seniors? Do we fund a \$1.6 trillion tax cut, or provide school lunches for our Nation's children? Do we focus on modernizing our Nation's schools and providing assistance for unemployed workers, or do we provide tax breaks for the few?

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Republicans have chosen the interests of the elite few over the needs of the many. It is clear where their priorities lie.

I urge my colleagues to align their priorities with those of the American people and vote against the Republican budget resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A PLEA FOR PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for peace one more time, to speak against a rush to war.

Our courageous sons and daughters have been placed in harm's way, and I will continue to support our young men and our young women, but I cannot in good conscience betray the non-violent principles on which I have worked all my life. I cannot sit in silence when I believe there is still time. It is late, it is very late, it is midnight, but it is not too late for diplomacy, Mr. Speaker.

War with Iraq will not bring peace to the Middle East. It will not make the world a safer or better place, a more loving place. It will not end the strife and hatred that breeds terror. War does not end strife, it sows it. War does not end hatred, it feeds it. War is bloody, war is vicious, it is evil, and it is messy. War destroys the dreams, the hopes, the aspirations and the longings of a people. I believe that war is obsolete.

As a great Nation and a blessed people, we must heed the words of the spiritual, "I am going to lay down my burden, down by the riverside. I ain't going to study war no more."

For those who argue that war is a necessary evil, I say you are half right. War is evil, but it is not necessary. War cannot be a necessary evil, because nonviolence is a necessary good. The two cannot coexist. As Americans, as human beings, as citizens of the world, as moral actors, we must embrace the good and reject the evil.

If we want to create a beloved community, create a beloved world, a world that is at peace with itself, if that is

our end, if that is our goal, our means, our way, it must be one of love, one of peace, one of nonviolence.

Gandhi said, "The choice is non-violence or nonexistence."

America's strength is not in its military might, but in our ideas. American ingenuity, freedom and democracy have conquered the world. It is a battle we did not win with guns or tanks or missiles, but with ideas, with principles, this whole idea of justice and freedom and liberty.

We must use our resources not to make bombs and guns, but to solve the problems that affect humankind. We must feed the stomach, clothe the naked body, educate and stimulate the mind. We must use our resources to build and not to tear down, to reconcile and not to divide, to love and not to hate, to heal and not to kill.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, many years ago, said, "Take offensive action in behalf of justice to remove the conditions which breed resentment, terror and violence against our great Nation."

This is the direction in which a great Nation and a proud people should move.

War is easy, but peace, peace is hard. When we hurt, when we fear, when we feel vulnerable or hopeless, it is easy to listen to what is most debase within us. It is easy to divide the words into us and them, to fear them, to hate them, to fight them, to kill them.

War is easy, but peace is hard. Peace is right, it is just and it is true, but it is not easy to love thy enemy. No, peace is hard.

Again, Martin Luther King said when he spoke out against the Vietnam War, he said, "War is not the answer. Let us not join those who shout war. These are days which demand wise restraint and calm reasonableness."

He was right then, and the wisdom of those words hold true today. War was not the answer then, and it is not the answer today. It is not the answer in this hour. War is never, never the answer. War is obsolete.

It is my belief, Mr. Speaker, that humankind would rise to a much higher level if we would lay down the tools and instruments of war and violence. It is not too late to stop our rush to war. Let us give peace a chance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE AND INEFFICIENCY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I find it hard to understand how anybody could be in favor of big government when we see, day in and day out, so much waste, fraud, abuse and simple inefficiency in the Federal Government.

I realize that the government keeps growing, despite the horrendous waste, because so many big businesses are making huge profits from Federal contracts, and so many bureaucrats are drawing salaries and benefits on average far higher than in the private sector. So while I have read and heard about so much waste and exorbitant spending by the Federal Government that it is hard to surprise me anymore, even I have been shocked and amazed by the spending of the new Transportation Security Administration.

Apparently I am not the only one shocked by this new agency. Michelle Malkin, a nationally syndicated columnist, wrote in a column carried in yesterday's Washington Times and papers across the country, "The Transportation Security Administration is a fiscal black hole and fiscal conservatives ought to be enraged." She said the TSA "is sucking down tax dollars like a bagless Dyson Cyclone vacuum gone berserk."

Ms. Malkin reports that "already the 1-year-old agency has amassed a \$3.3 billion budget deficit, and is demanding upward of \$6 billion for the current fiscal year."

She wrote in this column, "Never has a single government entity spent so much for so little in such a short time."

It is almost unbelievable to me, Mr. Speaker, that any Federal agency could lose \$3.3 billion in its first year in operation. This has to be one for the record books.

A few weeks ago I read in the Washington Post a report of testimony by Kenneth Mead, inspector general of the Transportation Department. He said the TSA had budgeted \$107 million to hire airport screeners, but they ended up paying over \$700 million to the contractor.

The only contact I had with this contractor was when they ran an ad saying they would take applications at a mall in my district, and then no one from the company showed up. I received several calls from angry constituents who showed up at 7 a.m. as the ad had directed and had driven long distances to get there, only to find no one from the company there.

If the TSA had budgeted \$107 million, they should have told this company